GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2414
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
FREE MEDICINES TO AIIMS PATIENTS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients admitted in General Ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines as per the vocabulary prepared by the Hospitals;

(b) if so, whether General Ward patients are given prescriptions for purchasing each and every medicine including cotton gauge and syringes from the market;

(c) whether a number of patients waiting for a life-saving surgery at the AIIMS and Government hospitals, being from poor families and not in a position to get the treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General ward during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(f) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to amend in the procedure to enable the poor people to avail of medical facility in Government hospitals?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)&(b): All the patients who are admitted in the General Ward in AIIMS hospitals are provided with common and emergency medicines/surgical items including cotton Gauge, syringes etc. Only those patients who can afford to buy the medicines not available in the hospital are asked to buy such items. In case of very poor indigent patients who cannot afford to buy all the required medicines and surgical items are provided by the AIIMS hospital.

(c) to (f): In AIIMShospital, patients from various socio-economic backgrounds come for treatment and their economic condition does not have any bearing to their admission and treatment.

The expenditure incurred by the AIIMS hospital procuring medicines/surgicals for the hospitalized patients (and EHS beneficiaries) for the financial year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is about Rs.9.67 crores and Rs.9.80 crores respectively.